



# Solid Waste Update

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## Setting the Standard: McPherson Area Solid Waste Utility Transfer Station

by Steve Sellmeyer

Over the past 9 years, Kansas has seen a revolution in its solid waste management strategy. In the wake of municipal solid waste landfill regulations developed under Subtitle D of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, various solid waste authorities across the state have opted to close their local solid waste landfills. This change has occurred because of the relatively high design, construction and operational costs for flexible membrane liners, and leachate collection systems required for new municipal solid waste landfills (MSWLFs). With the closure of numerous landfills, solid waste management in Kansas has evolved from an assortment of small city and county landfills to a system of numerous transfer stations and landfills. In many instances the transfer stations ship municipal solid waste to very large MSWLFs located near cities. Since the enactment of Subtitle D, the Bureau of Waste Management (BWM) has permitted over 40 transfer stations throughout the state. Few compare in design and functionality to that of the McPherson Area Solid Waste Utility (MASWU) transfer station and recycling center. The MASWU was formed in 1991 by an inter-local

agreement between McPherson County, the City of McPherson, and all of the other small cities throughout the county. MASWU operates under the direction of William Ridge, general manager.

The transfer station and recycling center, which took over two years to plan and design, is an exceptional example of good engineering and attention to detail. The facility, which was funded by a 20-year county bond, was designed to maximize efficiency and safety for the public and MASWU personnel while minimizing waste quantities through recycling. Located on 20 acres just outside the City of McPherson, this facility is conveniently positioned for public use. The site layout, which routes the public to areas away from large collection vehicles, provides safe access to drop off boxes for tires, large appliances, construction and demolition waste, yard waste, and scrap metal. In addition to drop boxes, the public area also allows county residents safe access to recycling bins and the tipping floor. The large compactor trucks are routed around the opposite side of the building so that accidents due to cross traffic are virtually eliminated. The public's response regarding facility access and services has been positive.

The main building, which houses both the transfer station and recycling center, is 241 ft. by 90 ft. with a dividing wall in the middle separating the tipping floor from the recycling center. Twenty-six foot high doors prevent compactor trucks from damaging the building if they forget to lower their beds before exiting. The facility, which is designed to process up to 1,800 tons per week, is processing 520 tons per week from the 28,000 county citizens it serves. The facility site also contains an administration and maintenance building. Since opening in February of 2000, the facility has been in compliance with all applicable state solid waste regulations.



## Transfer Station Operator Training Opportunity

**O**n November 1-2, 2000 a Transfer Station Operators' Training Course will be held in Manhattan under the joint sponsorship of the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) and the Kansas/SWANA "Sunflower Chapter." This training course, which will feature public and private sector managers, supervisors, and operators from Kansas solid waste management facilities as well as KDHE regulatory managers and specialists, will provide attendees with additional ideas on how to properly operate transfer stations despite changes to waste characteristics and quantities. Also, they will discuss their facilities' designs as well as suggestions for improvements so operations can be carried out more effectively or efficiently.

The day and half long course will include a field trip to the Riley County and Morris County Transfer Stations and the Fort Riley Recycling Center. KDHE expects updated information and new ideas to benefit new operators as well as managers, supervisors, gate house personnel and attendees of the fall 1998 training course in Emporia. Watch for training course flyers by mid-September. If you are interested in this training and don't receive a flyer by late September, please contact Suzanne Cornelius at 785-296-1602.

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## KDHE to Implement Illegal Dump Clean-Up Program

by Bill Bider, Director, Bureau of Waste Management

**K**DHE introduced legislation in 2000 to establish a new state-funded clean-up program for illegal dumps. These provisions, included in House Bill 2860, went into effect on July 1, 2000. KDHE is now authorized to utilize the solid waste management fund (which is primarily landfill tipping fees) to clean up illegally dumped waste, if the responsible party is "unknown, unable, or unwilling" to perform the clean-up work. The legislature amended KDHE's initial proposal requiring the city or county in which the site is located to contribute 25 percent of the clean-up cost. State expenditures are limited to \$10,000 per site.

Before implementing a cooperative clean-up project with a city or county, KDHE must try to identify the person(s) responsible for the illegal dumping and give that person an opportunity to properly dispose of the waste. KDHE must also determine that the illegally dumped waste constitutes a public nuisance and/or a risk to public health or the environment. If the person does not complete the clean-up work within a required time KDHE may carry out the work. The new provisions of law also require KDHE to pursue the recovery of expended funds from "unwilling" responsible parties.

Procedures have been developed to implement this clean-up program in the fall of 2000. Some key features of the program are:

- ▶ Cities, counties and others can submit candidate sites for consideration under this program by completing a KDHE form which identifies and characterizes the site.
- ▶ KDHE will prioritize sites according to nuisance, public health, and environmental impacts.
- ▶ Clean-up agreements will be negotiated with cities and counties for sites where the responsible party fails to act. Local governments may make their match with cash or in-kind services providing such things as equipment, labor, and even landfill space. KDHE may also contract with cities or by counties to perform the entire clean-up project and provide compensation for any work above the 25% match.
- ▶ Any money that KDHE recovers from a responsible party will be shared with the city or county which contributed (75% to the state and 25% to the city or county).

We encourage you to participate in this new program to clean up unwanted dumps. For more information, please call the Bureau of Waste Management at (785) 296-1600.



## WORKS! 2001

by Kent Foerster

**T**he next **Recycling and Composting WORKS! Conference** will be **March 20-22, 2001**. After six wonderful years



in Lindsborg, the annual Kansas Solid Waste Management Conference is moving a little farther west to Fort Hays State University and the City of Hays. The successful format of Tuesday

training, Wednesday general and concurrent sessions and demonstrations, and Thursday Recycling and Composting forums will be maintained. A committee recently met in Hays and the 2001 conference looks to be another success.

Like the 2000 conference, the theme will stress the importance of partnerships. Programs demonstrating unique and successful partnerships will be featured and a new KDHE partnership award will be presented. Tuesday training sessions will include beginner and advanced recycling and composting, business and industry waste reduction education, and multi-use site operator training to help workers

efficiently operate sites with multiple activities including landfills, transfer stations, recycling, composting, and HHW facilities.

Tentative conference topics include: construction and demolition material recycling, green building, partnering (nuts and bolts plus a panel), regulatory issues (state solid waste plan, solid waste management plan updates, permits and grants), electronic recycling, cooperative marketing (with actual regional break out sessions). Even more diverse composting, wood utilization, recycling and reuse demonstrations are being planned for the Wednesday afternoon sessions. Wednesday evening festivities include a reception and tours at Sternberg Museum with the premiere attraction: **A T-Rex named Sue**, the largest, most complete, and best preserved Tyrannosaurus Rex fossil yet discovered. This will be followed by a special dinner featuring German specialties, music and dancing. Thursday will feature recycling and composting forums, community based environmental education training and regional cooperative marketing break out sessions. The conference will end with the Kansas Recyclers Association's annual awards luncheon.

In 1990 there were 257 Kansas recycling centers and programs (no composting). In 1999 there were 1,291 recycling centers and programs (including 100 composting programs in 54 counties).



## WASTE TIRE FORUM 2000

by Marty Burke

**O**n May 17, over 100 representatives from county governments, tire retailers and waste tire disposal businesses participated in the KDHE Waste Tire Forum in Salina. The purpose of the forum was to discuss the history of the tire program and examine future waste tire management issues and strategies in advance of a statutory shift in responsibility for waste tire cleanup from the state to individual counties. On July 1, 2001, as required by statute, the state will lose its authority to clean up waste tires and the excise tax on the sale of new tires will be reduced from \$.50 to \$.25.

The forum featured presentations by Cecil Fish, Labette County Commissioner and John Davis of Wichita/Sedgwick County Environmental Health, on waste tire management in urban and rural-based counties. Mary Sikora of the Connecticut-based Recycling Research Institute and publisher of Scrap Tire News provided a national overview on waste tire issues. (See *TIRES* on page 5)

## **\$1.3 Million Awarded in Round #9 of the Competitive Plan Implementation Grant Program**

by Cathy Colglazier

**I**n July 2000, Governor Graves approved awards totaling over \$1.3 million to 39 applicants of the Competitive Plan Implementation Grant Program. This grant program provides funding for the development and operation of recycling, source reduction, waste minimization, and solid waste management education programs. Over \$5.5 million was requested in the 61 applications.

Recipients of Round #9 awards are now waiting for their contracts to be sent to them. These contracts have several changes that will continue to be included in future contracts. These changes include the requirement to carry comprehensive insurance on equipment or buildings purchased with grant funding; county or regional compliance with state solid waste management planning statutes (K.S.A. 65-3405 & 65-3415); and in some cases, awardees will be required to file a security agreement. These items will also be discussed in the grant guidance documents that will be available around the first of the year. Additional questions can be directed to Cathy Colglazier at (785) 291-3510.

Future grant applicants should also take note of a recent statutory change. K.S.A. 65-3415 now states that if a county or regional authority has not completed the mandatory annual reviews or five year updates of their solid waste management plan, no applicant or grantee from within that county or region can receive grant funding or payments from a previous grant award. These planning requirements are included in the new contracts. For additional information or questions regarding solid waste management planning, please contact Elizabeth Carreno at (785) 296-1026. The application deadline for Round #10, the next round of this grant program, is tentatively scheduled for May 2001. Grant application guides and workshops will be available in January 2001 to assist with the application process.

KDHE also recently awarded \$275,555 in grant funds to six applicants of the Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) grant program. The HHW grant program funds the development or enhancement of HHW programs. The next deadline for submitting HHW grants is December 15, 2000; however, awards will be subject to the availability of funds.

If you would like to request an HHW grant application guide and form or would like to be placed on the mailing list for information regarding Round #10 of the Competitive Plan Implementation grant program, please contact the Bureau of Waste Management at (800) 282-9790.



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## **Calendar Items**

September 8-17	Great Hunt for your Health and Environment, Kansas State Fair, Hutchinson
September 12-13	KDHE Environment Conference, Topeka
September 15	Kansas Don't Spoil It! Day, Kansas State Fair, Hutchinson
November 1-2	Municipal Solid Waste Operators' Training Course, Manhattan
November 8-9	Kansas Environmental Education Conference, Salina
November 15	America Recycles Day
November 16	Use Less Stuff Day
January 30-Feb. 1	Kansas Household Hazardous Waste Conference, Topeka
March 20-22	Recycling and Composting Works! Conference, Hays

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### (TIRES)

These were followed by KDHE staff presentations and public input sessions on: enforcement and compliance issues; excise taxes, fund expenditures and grants; waste tire permits, standards and beneficial uses.

Public input on the waste tire program and upcoming changes varied but some points of agreement did emerge during the meeting. Both government and business representatives agreed that waste tire management issues were ongoing and required continued attention. Participants also agreed that KDHE should maintain some level of tire cleanup authority and should provide continuing assistance to counties, either through grants or regulatory efforts. There was a strong consensus to maintain the current \$.50 per tire excise tax to fund these programs.

Based on input from the meeting, a KDHE waste tire legislative proposal was drafted and is now being reviewed internally.

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## News From The (Ground)Watering Hole

by Mark Duncan

### Solid Waste Update



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In this issue, we wanted to give a brief status report on groundwater monitoring at solid waste facilities in Kansas. You might find this information interesting, or it might just be comforting to know that your facility isn't the only one affected by these requirements.

There are currently 22 operating Municipal Solid Waste Landfills (MSWLFs) conducting some phase of groundwater monitoring. Of these 22 landfills, 12 are conducting **detection monitoring**. These landfills have not exhibited any significant contamination, either by comparison to predetermined Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs) or in a statistical evaluation, emanating from the landfill as a result of waste disposal activities. Detection monitoring consists of obtaining representative groundwater samples on a semi-annual basis, analyzing for a list of parameters commonly referred to as "Appendix I", and performing statistical analysis on the results.

Ten of the 22 landfills are conducting **assessment monitoring**. These landfills have contamination present in the groundwater that is either above the MCL or is statistically significant. During assessment monitoring, most groundwater monitoring is still performed on a semi-annual basis, but the list also includes parameters from an expanded list referred to as "Appendix II". An additional requirement placed on those landfills conducting assessment monitoring is the investigation of the contaminant plume. The landfill must accurately and regularly define how far both vertically and horizontally the contamination has reached, and also determine how fast the contamination is moving from the fill area.

Of the ten landfills conducting assessment monitoring, three are also conducting **corrective action**. The contaminant plume from these landfills has exceeded the MCL off-site or a sensitive receptor is affected. Landfills conducting corrective action must also work with KDHE's Bureau of Environmental Remediation to install and operate measures to clean up the contaminant plume.

In addition to the MSWLFs, there are thirty Small Arid Landfills (SALs) in Kansas. These landfills, due to the small amount of waste collected and the low precipitation they receive, monitor semi-annually for an abbreviated list of parameters known as "Table 1".

In the next issue we'll talk about upcoming regulation changes affecting statistical analysis requirements and construction/demolition landfills.



In 1999 37 % of Kansans had access to curbside collection of recyclables. About 98% of Kansas now have at least limited access to recycling drop off centers. About 10% of Kansans have curbside collection of yard trimmings and 40% of Kansans have access to city drop off sites for yard trimmings.

## State Solid Waste Plan Will Be Updated in 2000

by Bill Bider, Director, Bureau of Waste Management

A public meeting was held in Wichita on June 20, 2000 to solicit public feedback on how KDHE should proceed to update the Kansas Solid Waste Management Plan. This update is being carried out in accordance with the schedule set forth in the existing plan. It is KDHE's intention to adopt an updated plan by the end of 2000. A revised draft plan will be distributed for comments in October to everyone who attended the public meeting. In addition, KDHE will announce the availability of the draft plan to the general public using a variety of methods.

The format for the updated plan will differ significantly from the 1996 plan; however, the plan will maintain the major state policy that local decision-making is appropriate as related to most solid waste management decisions. Statewide mandates, goals, and landfill bans will be avoided but goal-setting at the county or regional level will be encouraged. The updated plan will:

- be more concise and include less background information;
- focus on state (KDHE) work goals and objectives;
- link the recommendations in the old plan to those set forth in the new plan;
- include comprehensive resource lists to guide local planners or interested persons in finding the information they need.

The major theme of the new plan will be the "importance of partnering" in establishing effective and efficient solid waste management systems. It has become evident over the past two years that the most successful waste management systems involve one or more



active partnerships where cities, counties, non-profit organizations, and private companies work together.

To supplement the state plan, KDHE will prepare several resource documents which will be available upon request. These documents will cover things like waste composition studies and data, planning decision-making models, and technical guidance documents.

If you would like to obtain a draft copy of the updated plan, please contact the Bureau of Waste Management at (785) 296-1600 or e-mail Bill Bider at [wbider@kdhe.state.ks.us](mailto:wbider@kdhe.state.ks.us).

Just over 2.7 million pounds of Household Hazardous Waste was collected in Kansas last year.

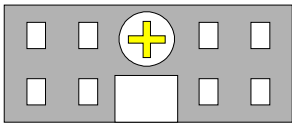
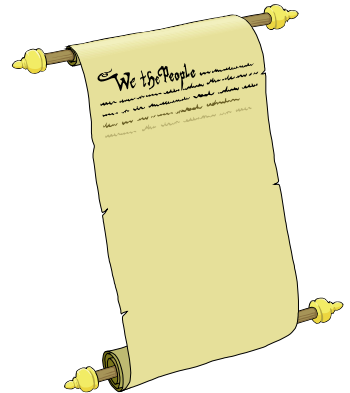
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## REGS, REGS, REGS - NEW REGULATIONS UPDATE

Three sets of administrative regulations are being drafted which have the potential to affect many Kansans managing solid waste. The process of developing new or updated regulations is similar. The process begins with establishment of a task force comprised of individuals having particular expertise in each area of regulatory interest.

On April 25, the Bureau hosted a task force meeting to begin updating the solid waste management planning regulations, K.A.R. 28-29-75 through 28-29-82. There have been several changes to the solid waste statutes since the last time the planning regulations were revised, and in some instances the current statutory language conflicts with the regulations. Current efforts are aimed at removing confusion and contradictions from the planning regulations.



The Medical Waste Task Force met in Topeka on June 22, to begin the process of updating the existing medical waste regulation, K.A.R. 28-29-27, Medical Services Waste. The task force was made up of representatives from health departments, health care facilities, health care associations, medical waste transporters and processors, county agencies, and consultants.

The medical waste regulation needs to be revised for several reasons. The regulation was written in 1984 and needs to be updated to reflect current standards and technology. The existing regulation is difficult to interpret and staff frequently receives telephone requests for clarification. In addition, new federal air quality regulations may result in the shutdown of most medical, hospital and infectious waste incinerators. These new air regulations could be in effect as early as September 2001. The result of closing these incinerators will probably be that more medical waste will be introduced into the solid waste stream. An updated regulation that is practical, effective, and understandable will better serve the regulated community.

A third task force met on July 13, 2000. This group discussed various topics related to construction/demolition (C/D) landfills and proposed content for new C/D landfill regulations. Based on recommendations from the task force, staff was directed to proceed with drafting regulations for C/D landfills.

In each case, BWM staff will draft regulations based on the comments received during the three task force meetings as well as from additional information that is acquired from other sources and states. Following the drafting process each member of the three task forces will be asked to review the respective draft regulations. If desired, additional task force meetings will be scheduled. The draft regulations will be revised in accordance with recommendations of the task forces provided in writing or during follow-up meetings.



The final steps in the regulation development process involve reviews of the final drafts by the Kansas Department of Administration and the Attorney General's Office for form and legality. Following these reviews, a public hearing on each regulation package will be held for the purpose of receiving additional comments from individuals or groups that were not included in the task force process. It is the bureau's goal to complete the development and adoption of these regulation packages during the first half of 2001.

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